

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : A61F 5/443</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/30576 (43) International Publication Date: 2 June 2000 (02.06.00)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK99/00630 (22) International Filing Date: 16 November 1999 (16.11.99) (30) Priority Data: PA 1998 01520 19 November 1998 (19.11.98) DK (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): COLOPLAST A/S [DK/DK]; Høltedam 1, DK-3050 Humlebaek (DK). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LEISNER, Henrik [DK/DK]; Erichsensvej 19, DK-2820 Gentofte (DK). HANSEN, Michael [DK/DK]; Dyreholmen 33, Strand Esb., DK-3250 Gilleleje (DK). (74) Common Representative: COLOPLAST A/S; Patent Dept., Kim Nilausen, Høltedam 1, DK-3050 Humlebaek (DK).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: AN OSTOMY APPLIANCE</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An ostomy appliance comprising a body side member comprising an adhesive wafer or pad for securing the appliance to the user's skin, said wafer or pad having a hole for receiving a stoma, and a separately exchangeable receiving bag secured to the body side ostomy member for receiving secretions from the ostomy, wherein the body side member comprises a first substantially annular first flange connected to the base plate via a first connecting section and the receiving bag comprises a second substantially annular second flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular second connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with said first flange wherein the first and the second flanges are connected with the base plate and the collecting bag, respectively, in such a manner that the outer radius of said second connecting section exceeds the outer radius of said first connecting section by a value which at least equals the total thickness of the first and the second flanges and the adhesive connection between the collecting bag and the carrier device is provided by a layer of adhesive applied on said second flange and capable of repeated adhesion with the first flange, and the first and the second flanges are made from a flexible and resilient material, and wherein the second flange has perforations in an essentially circular zone corresponding to or larger than the outer radius of said first connecting section reduces the risk of leakage and also reduces the necessary cleaning when substituting the receiving bag.</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

Title

An Ostomy Appliance

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an ostomy appliance comprising a body side
5 member comprising an adhesive wafer or pad for securing the appliance to the
user's skin, said wafer or pad having a hole for receiving a stoma, and a
separately exchangeable receiving bag secured to the body side ostomy
member for receiving secretions from the ostomy, wherein the body side
10 member comprises a first substantially annular first flange which is fixedly
connected to the base plate and the receiving bag comprises a substantially
annular second flange adapted for removable and adhesive coupling and
sealing to said first flange.

Description of the Related Art

In connection with surgery for a number of diseases in the gastro-intestinal tract
15 a consequence is, in many cases, that the colon, the ileum or the urethra has
been exposed surgically and the patient is left with an abdominal stoma and the
effluents or waste products of the body, which are conveyed through these
organs, are discharged through the artificial orifice or opening and are collected
in a collection bag, which is usually adhered to the skin by means of an adhesive
20 wafer or plate having an inlet opening for accommodating the stoma. Also in
connection with a fistula, the patient will have to rely on an appliance to collect
the bodily material emerging from such opening.

Ostomy appliances are well known. Such appliances may be two-piece or
one-piece appliances. In both types of appliances, a body side member is
25 attached to the wearer's abdomen, and optionally a receiving member or bag is
attached to the body side ostomy member for receiving exudates from the
ostomy in case of a two-piece appliance.

When using one-piece appliances, the whole appliance, including the adhesive
wafer or pad securing the appliance to the skin is removed and replaced by a

fresh appliance. When using two-piece appliances, a body side ostomy member or carrier device is left in place for several days, and only the receiving member or bag is replaced.

The service time of the body side ostomy member depends on the amount and
5 aggressiveness of the exudates and of the tightness between the ostomy and the body side ostomy member.

In a collecting system of this type known from EP patent application No. 0 276 043, a flange for adhesive connection with the flange of the collecting bag or with the bag itself being fastened on a base plate in the form of an adhesive pad.

10 In such a collecting system, the base plate of the carrier device must be able to remain on the user over a long period of time, for example up to 8-10 days. During this whole period of time, the carrier device must be capable of undergoing deformation owing to the user's movements, washing, exposure to bag replacements, etc. Conventionally, the base plate of such a carrier device is
15 designed as a thin adhesive foil, optionally with some sort of stiffening reinforcement disc for maintaining a plane adhesive surface for the bag. However, such a reinforcement disc prevents the base plate from following the contours of the body when the user moves, and it does not provide the desired shock absorbing effect between the collecting bag and the user, which, of course, reduces
20 comfort. A less rigid disc would be able to follow the base plate during such movements, to be sure, but would thus exert a pull in it, which, in addition to transmitting an unpleasant pulling effect to the user's skin, also weakens the adhesive effect between base plate and skin. Furthermore, the adhesive surface facing the bag will not in that case remain plane owing to the inevitable deforma-
25 tions, which results in problems of rearranging the bag on the user.

In the above EP patent application, an attempt has been made to eliminate these problems by connecting a rigid flange with the base plate via a flexible sheet, which, however, provides an unstable and insecure connection. Furthermore, the adhesive connection taught between bag and carrier device is provided either by
30 a number of layers of adhesive applied to the flange of the base plate and

activated one after the other, which reduces the number of times to which the base plate may be exposed to a change of bag to the number of layers of adhesive, or by using a new bag with a fresh layer of adhesive, which renders the system more expensive in use.

- 5 One solution to this problem is disclosed in the applicants own WO 96/38106 in which is disclosed an ostomy collecting system which comprises a collecting bag having an inlet opening formed in a bag wall and with surrounding connecting elements for connection with a stoma in a user, and a carrier device for the collecting bag. The carrier device comprises a base plate for fastening on the
- 10 user and a substantially annular first flange connected to the base plate via a first connecting section. The connecting elements comprise a substantially annular second flange, which is fixedly connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular second connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with said first flange. The first and the second flanges are connected
- 15 with the base plate and the collecting bag, respectively, in such a manner that the outer radius of said second connecting section exceeds the outer radius of said first connecting section by a value which at least equals the total thickness of the first and the second flanges. The adhesive connection between the collect-
- 20 ing bag and the carrier device is provided by a layer of adhesive applied on said second flange and capable of repeated adhesion with the first flange, and the first and the second flanges are made from a flexible and resilient material

Although this design provides a connection between carrier device and collecting bag, which is stable against displacement forces, and which acts as a shock absorbing element there is still a need for a even more safe solution in which the

25 connecting surface between the collecting bag and the body side member is maintained largely independently of the deformation of the body side member caused by, for example, the user's movements, but which is nevertheless stable and continues to exhibit an even and flexible adhesive surface without wrinkles or gaps opening for passage of liquid between the flanges of the bag and the

30 body side member. It is a further object that it should be possible to remove and reapply one or more bags repeatedly without any reduction in the life of the base

plate and to reduce the necessary cleaning of the body side member when substituting the collecting bag.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention is disclosed more in detail with reference to the drawings in which

5 Fig.1 shows a an embodiment of a body side member for use according to the invention for an ostomy collecting bag,

Fig.2 shows section of a collecting bag 1 according to the invention along a line A-A as shown in Fig.3,

10 Fig.3 shows an embodiment of a flange for use according to the invention for an ostomy bag,

Fig.4 shows another embodiment of a flange for use according to the invention for an ostomy collecting bag, and

Fig.5 shows yet another embodiment of a flange for use according to the invention for an ostomy collecting bag.

15 Summary of the Invention

The invention relates to an ostomy appliance comprising a body side member comprising an adhesive wafer or pad for securing the appliance to the user's skin, said wafer or pad having a hole for receiving a stoma, and a separately exchangeable receiving bag secured to the body side ostomy member for receiving secretions from the ostomy, wherein the body side member comprises a first substantially annular first flange connected to body side member via a first connecting section and the receiving bag comprises a second substantially annular second flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular second connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with said first flange wherein the first and the second flanges are connected with the body side member and the collecting bag, respectively, and the adhesive connection between the collecting bag and the carrier device is provided by a layer of adhesive applied on said second flange and capable of repeated adhesion with the first flange, and the first and the second flanges are made from a flexible and resilient material.

20

25

30

Furthermore, the invention relates to an ostomy collecting bag comprising a substantially annular flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with a flange connected with a body side member.

- 5 Still further, the invention relates to a flange for an ostomy collecting bag comprising a substantially annular flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with a flange connected with a body side member.

Detailed Description of the Invention

- 10 The present invention relates to an ostomy appliance comprising a body side member comprising an adhesive wafer or pad for securing the appliance to the user's skin, said wafer or pad having a hole for receiving a stoma, and a separately exchangeable receiving bag secured to the body side ostomy member for receiving secretions from the ostomy, wherein the body side
- 15 member comprises a first substantially annular first flange connected to body side member via a first connecting section and the receiving bag comprises a second substantially annular second flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular second connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with said first flange wherein the first and
- 20 the second flanges are connected with the body side member and the collecting bag, respectively, and the adhesive connection between the collecting bag and the carrier device is provided by a layer of adhesive applied on said second flange and capable of repeated adhesion with the first flange, and the first and the second flanges are made from a flexible and resilient material, said ostomy
- 25 appliance being characterised in that the second flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.

- Due to erosion of the adhesive at the inner periphery of the hole in the flanges of the bag and the body side member there is an increased risk of formation of
- 30 wrinkles or gaps from said periphery as there is a direct connection to the skin via the first connecting section transmitting the movements of the skin. If a

wrinkle or gap is formed, it will proceed and eventually reach the outer periphery and form a canal giving a leak causing liberation of smell and pollution of the ostomates clothes.

It has been found that a circular zone of perforations will ensure that if a wrinkle
5 or gap is formed at the inner periphery, it will not proceed to the outer periphery but stop in the zone of perforations where the flange is able to absorb the lateral movement without transmitting the same across the zone.

Furthermore, the body side member is preferably provided with a release liner onto which the adhesive may adhere releasably. When substituting the collecting
10 bag, the surface is to be cleaned and using the present invention it is possible to let the second flange cover a larger part of the first flange protecting the same against contamination from the visceral contents minimising the necessary cleaning. It is noted that the inner diameter of the foam flange has to be as little as possible, most preferable: very near the diameter of the stoma in order to
15 minimise the skin irritation.

It is preferred that the outer radius of said second connecting section exceeds the outer radius of said first connecting section by a value which at least equals the total thickness of the first and the second flanges as such area outside the outer radius of said first connecting section will not bend or fold sharply in this
20 area, because the release film is not in direct contact with the base plate on the skin.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the perforations are placed in an essentially circular zone corresponding to or larger than the outer radius of said first connecting section isolating the inner portion of the flange wherein wrinkles
25 often occurs from the outer portion not being in direct contact with the base plate on the skin and thus improving the safety against leaks.

It is preferred that the perforations are in the form of two essentially circular openings occupying more than 50% of the circular zone, more preferred more than 60% and even more preferred more than 80%.

In embodiments of the invention wherein the circular openings leave one or more larger areas without interruption, it is preferred further one or more essentially circular holes are placed in the remaining part of the circular zone.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the perforations are in the form a
5 series of perforations placed in the circular zone. The perforations are preferably equidistant and leaving only narrow connections between the inner and outer portions of the flange. The perforations may e.g. be in the form of rectangular openings or preferably corresponding openings having rounded edges minimising the building-up of stress. In an especially preferred embodiment of the inven-
10 tion the perforations are in the form a series of triangular or trapezoid perforations placed with alternating orientation in the circular zone leaving only narrow connections between the inner and outer portions of the flange having a direction deviating from the radial direction in order to minimise the transmittance of stress across the circular zone. The edges of triangular or trapezoid perfora-
15 tions are preferably rounded. In an alternative embodiment the openings are in the form of two or more rows of essentially circular openings placed in two essentially circular zones having different diameters and wherein the individual perforations are not aligned with respect to the radial direction in a manner leaving only narrow connections between the inner and outer portions of the
20 flange having a direction deviating from the radial direction.

The first and the second flanges are preferably formed as discs of a cellular plastic material, which provides a good shock absorbing and resilient action and also has the effect that the weight of the collecting system can be kept down.

In a second aspect, the invention relates to an ostomy collecting bag comprising
25 a substantially annular flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with a flange connected with a body side member, characterised in that the flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.

An ostomy bag according to the invention will provide the advantages of the invention as explained above in combination with any body side member adapted to be connected to a collecting bag via an adhesive connection between the annular flange of the bag and a corresponding annular flange on the body side member.

It is preferred that the perforations are in the form of two essentially circular openings occupying more than 50% of the circular zone, more preferred more than 60% and even more preferred more than 80%.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the perforations are in the form a series of perforations placed in the circular zone as explained above.

In a third aspect the invention relates to a flange for an ostomy collecting bag, characterised in that the flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.

Such a flange may be used in a manner known per se for producing ostomy appliances and ostomy collecting bags having a connection between carrier device and collecting bag, which is stable against displacement forces.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

Reference is made to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings showing an embodiment of an ostomy appliance according to the invention. The embodiment comprises a collecting bag 1 for collection of faeces and a body side member 2 for fastening the bag 1 around a stoma in the user's abdominal wall, and for this purpose has an inlet opening 4 in a bag wall 3. The bag 1 may either be closed as shown or be openable at the bottom for intermittent emptying of its contents. The inlet opening 4 is surrounded by connecting elements generally designated 5 for connecting the bag 1 with the body side member 2. The body side member comprises a base plate 6 which is designed to be adhered to the user's skin by means of a skin-friendly adhesive applied on the back of the base plate. The base plate 6 carries a first flange or base plate flange 7, in which is formed a hole 7a.

- The base plate flange 7 is secured to the base plate 6 with a layer 8 of adhesive applied in a substantially annular connecting section having an internal diameter corresponding to that of the hole 7a in the base plate flange 7 and having an external diameter so that a rim portion of the flange 7 protrudes beyond the layer 8 of an adhesive. Of course, the flange 7 may also be fastened to the base plate 6 through other means, for example by welding. The base plate flange 7 may, for example, be moulded in a water-repellent cellular plastics material, such as ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) or polyurethane (PUR), with closed cells so that the cellular plastic material does not absorb liquid.
- 10 The fastening elements 5 on the bag 1 are constructed from a second flange or bag flange 9 having one or more perforations 14,15 and which, in the embodiment shown, is secured to the bag wall 3 by means of a substantially annular connecting section in the form of a layer 10 of an adhesive in such a manner that a rim portion of the bag flange 9 protrudes beyond the layer 10 of adhesive. The
- 15 outer radius of the layer 10 of adhesive exceeds the outer radius of the layer 8 of adhesive between the base plate flange 7 and the base plate 6 by a value at least equalling the total thickness of the base plate flange 7 and the bag flange 9. Of course, the bag flange 9 may also be fastened to the bag wall 3 through other means, for example by welding, and like the base plate flange 7 it consists
- 20 of a moulded cellular plastic material, such as EVA cellular plastic or PUR cellular plastics. On the side facing away from the bag, the flange 9 is coated over substantially all its surface with a thin, washable layer of adhesive (not shown), which may, for example, be a hydrogel adhesive, an acrylate adhesive or an adhesive of the hot-melt type. The layer of adhesive is applied in a thin layer,
- 25 partly to keep thickness low, and partly to maintain the flexibility and resilience of the bag flange. This application may be effected, for example, by coating, spraying or application in a suitable pattern. In the delivery state of the bag, the layer of adhesive is covered by a release liner 11. The section of flange 9 of the bag 1 shown in Fig. 2 is taken along the line A-A of a flange as shown in Fig.3.
- 30 The bag flange 9 preferably has a protruding part or ear 12 facilitating the removal of the bag by providing a handle or grip for handling the bag. In such an area, the adhesive is preferably covered by a cover layer 13.

When the collecting system according to the invention is used, the body side member 2 is arranged on the user's abdomen, the base plate 6 being, placed against the user's skin, and the stoma being passed out through the hole 4. The release liner 11 of the collecting bag is removed from the layer of adhesive,
5 which is subsequently adhered to the base plate flange 7 of the body side member around the stoma.

Fig. 3 shows an embodiment of a flange 9 according to the invention having a protruding part or ear 12 and having perforations 14, 15 in a circular zone having a diameter larger than the diameter of the connection zone 8 of the body side
10 member of Fig. 1. In this embodiment, perforations of different shapes are present, namely elongated perforations or openings 14 and circular openings 15. The line A-A indicates the line of section of the flange shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 shows another embodiment of a flange according to the invention having a protruding part or ear 12 and having a series of essentially similar perforations
15 16 placed in a circular zone. The perforations are placed equidistantly leaving only narrow connections 17 between the inner and outer portions of the flange.

Fig. 5 shows a further embodiment of a flange according to the invention having a protruding part or ear 12 and having a series of essentially similar perforations 18 in the form of trapeze's placed in a circular zone. The perforations are placed
20 equidistantly and alternating leaving only narrow connections 18 between the inner and outer portions of the flange having a direction deviating from the radial direction in order to minimise the transmittance of stress across the circular zone as indicated by the radius 20.

Claims

1. An ostomy appliance comprising a body side member comprising an adhesive wafer or pad for securing the appliance to the user's skin, said wafer or pad having a hole for receiving a stoma, and a separately exchangeable receiving bag secured to the body side ostomy member for receiving secretions from the ostomy, wherein the body side member comprises a first substantially annular first flange connected to body side member via a first connecting section and the receiving bag comprises a second substantially annular second flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular second connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with said first flange wherein the first and the second flanges are connected with the body side member and the collecting bag, respectively, and the adhesive connection between the collecting bag and the carrier device is provided by a layer of adhesive applied on said second flange and capable of repeated adhesion with the first flange, and the first and the second flanges are made from a flexible and resilient material, characterised in that the second flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.
2. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the outer radius of said second connecting section exceeds the outer radius of said first connecting section by a value which at least equals the total thickness of the first and the second flanges.
3. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the perforations are placed in an essentially circular zone corresponding to or larger than the outer radius of said first connecting section.
4. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that the perforations are in the form of two essentially circular openings occupying more than 50% of the circular zone.

5. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4, characterised in that the further one or more essentially circular holes are placed in the remaining part of the circular zone.
6. An ostomy appliance as claimed in any of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that the perforations are in the form a series of perforations placed in the circular zone.
7. An ostomy collecting bag comprising a substantially annular flange which is connected to the collecting bag via a substantially annular connecting section and is designed for removable and adhesive connection with a flange connected with a body side member, characterised in that the flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.
8. An ostomy collecting bag as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the perforations are in the form of two essentially circular openings occupying more than 50% of the circular zone.
9. An ostomy collecting bag as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the perforations are in the form a series of perforations placed in the circular zone.
10. A flange for an ostomy collecting bag, characterised in that the flange has one or more perforations in an essentially circular zone dividing the flange into an inner and an outer portion.

1/4

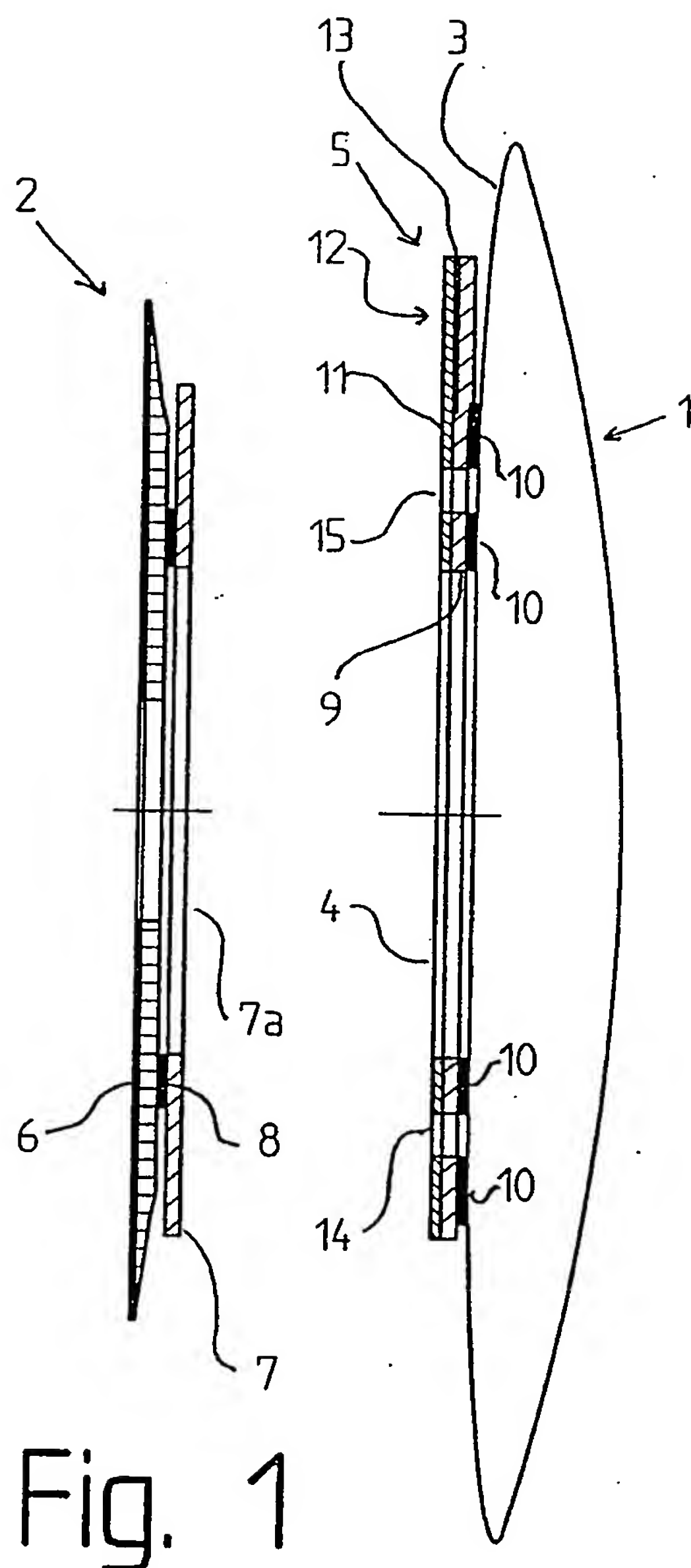


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

2/4

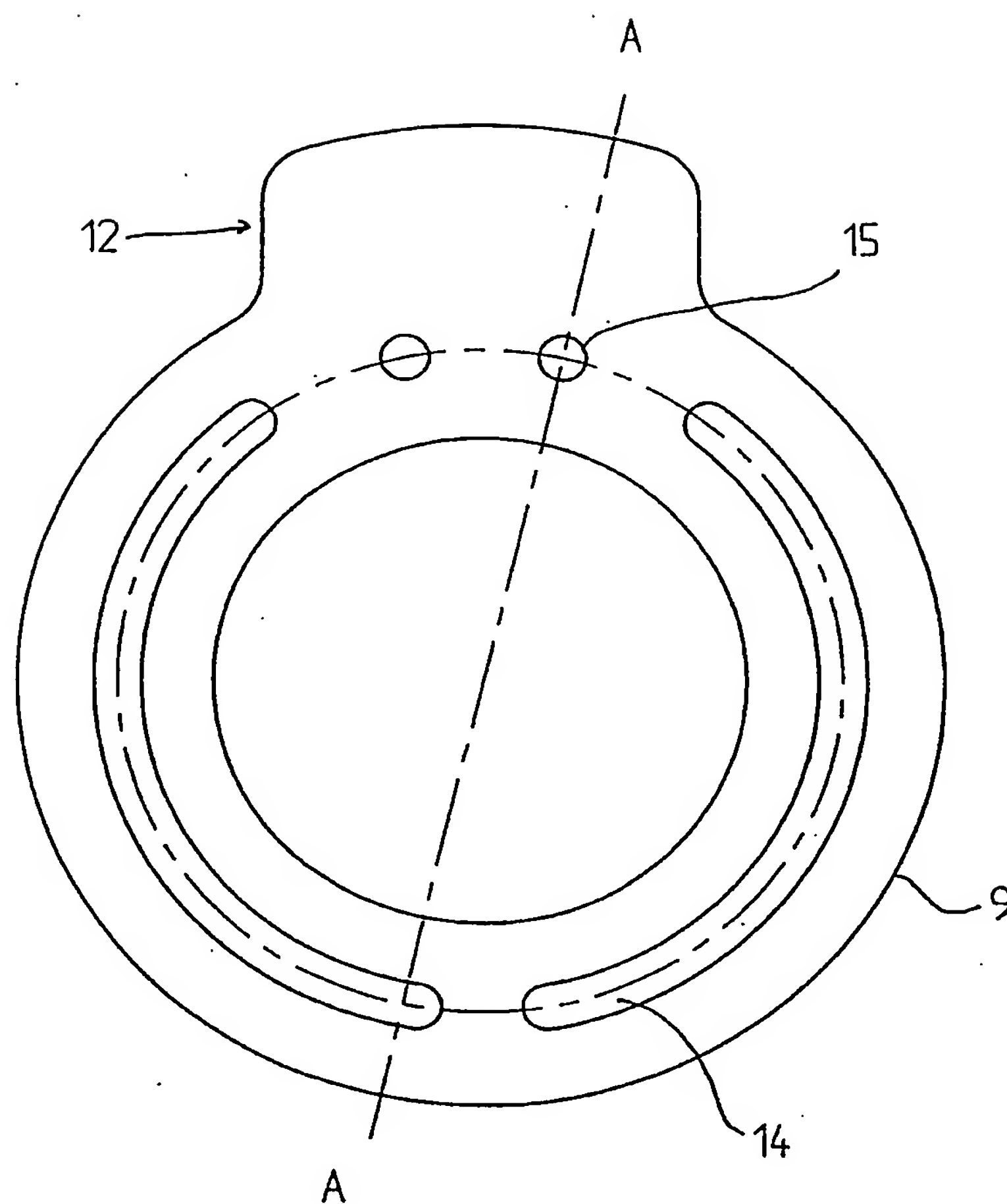


Fig. 3

3/4

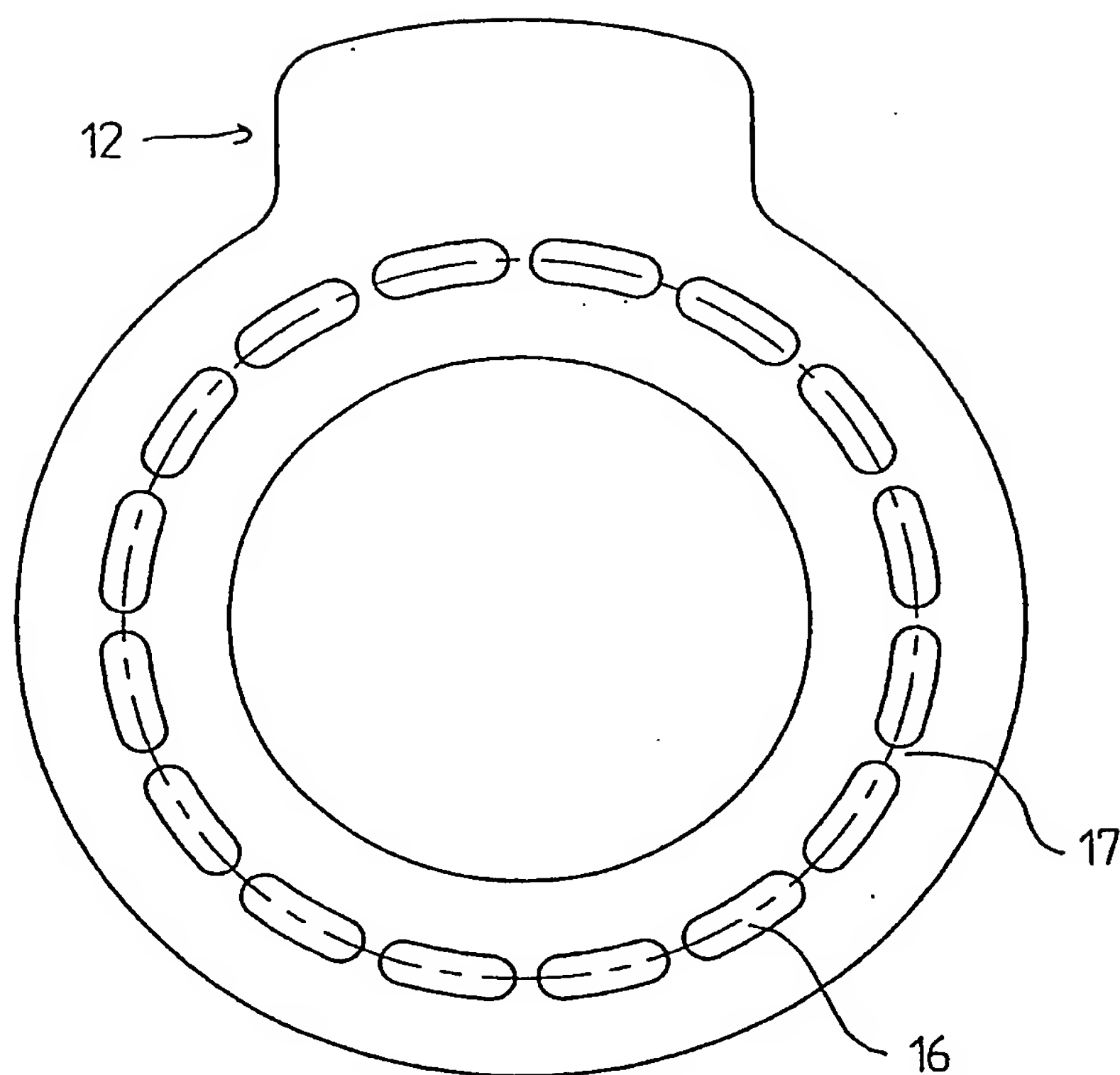


Fig. 4

4/4

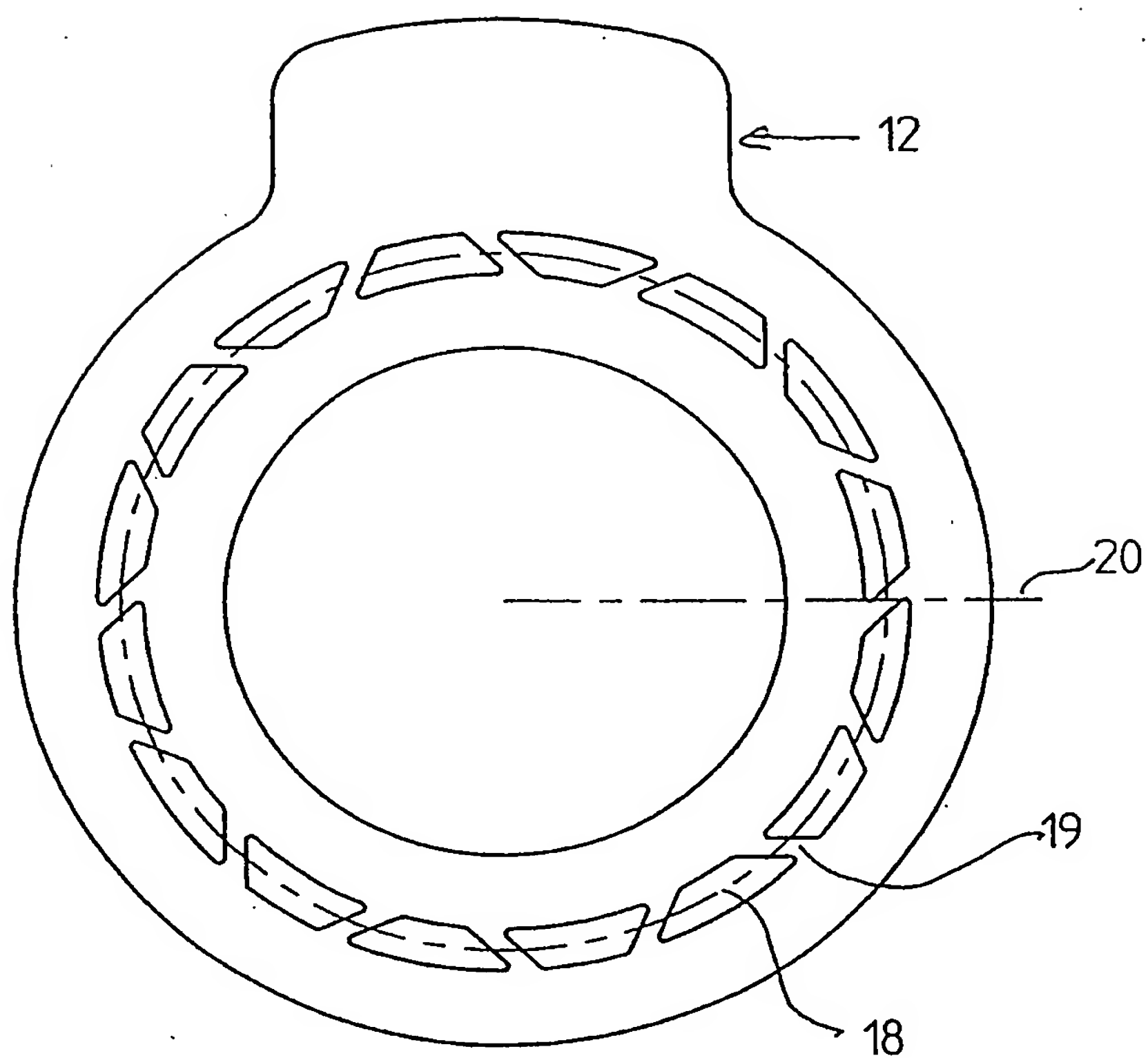


Fig. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 99/00630

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61F 5/443

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2283916 A (WELLAND MEDICAL LIMITED), 24 May 1995 (24.05.95), page 4, line 15 - page 5, line 5, figures 1-2 --	1-10
A	WO 9834573 A1 (BAR-SHALOM, DANIEL), 13 August 1998 (13.08.98), figures 7,10, abstract --	1-10
A	US 5714225 A (HENRIK CHRISTIAN HANSEN ET AL), 3 February 1998 (03.02.98), figures 1-5, abstract -- -----	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 March 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

17 04 2000

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority
European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel(+31-70)340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl,
Fax(+31-70)340-3016

Authorized officer

LEIF BRANDER/E1s
Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

02/12/99

International application No.
PCT/DK 99/00630

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB	2283916	A	24/05/95	NONE	
WO	9834573	A1	13/08/98	AU 5749698 A	26/08/98
US	5714225	A	03/02/98	AT 161165 T	15/01/98
				AU 675493 B	06/02/97
				AU 5857894 A	15/08/94
				CN 1116405 A	07/02/96
				DE 69407436 D,T	16/04/98
				DK 4893 A	16/07/94
				DK 169711 B	23/01/95
				DK 762860 T	25/05/98
				EP 0762860 A,B	19/03/97
				ES 2111902 T	16/03/98
				JP 8505074 T	04/06/96
				NO 303423 B	13/07/98
				NO 952686 A	04/09/95
				WO 9415562 A	21/07/94